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Criminal Justice Chronicle

The Newspaper Of The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy



Photo by Gerry Pate, Courtesy Spartanburg Herald-Journal
Chesnee Police officer Bernard Godfrey (left) and Sgt. Jack Wiggins lower a flag to half-staff at the Chesnee City Hall as a part of ceremonies to honor slain law enforcement officers. Many departments throughout the state held ceremonies to honor slain officers during National Police Memorial Week the week of May 15-21.

Criminal Justice Chronicle

The Newspaper Of The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy



Rick Johnson, former captain in the Richland County Sheriff's Department, has been named director of the Criminal Justice Academy.

Rick Johnson assumes post as Academy director

Rick Johnson assumed his position as the Executive Director for the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy May 16.

Johnson, former captain-in-charge of uniform patrol at the Richland County Sheriff's Department, was chosen to assume the director's job at the May 11 meeting of the Training Council from the 183 candidates who applied for the job.

Col. J.H. (Red) Lanier, chairman of the Training Council, announced the board's decision after an hour and half long executive session May 11. The Training Council voted unanimously in favor of Johnson with one abstention. Associate Director Jim Kirby has been Acting Director since January, following the resignation of John O'Leary.

"Jim has done a great job for the Academy in the interim," Lanier said after the announcement. Lanier continued saying that the Council respected Johnson and will support the former captain in his new position. Johnson received his masters degree in education from Clemson University in 1972. He worked as a guidance counselor at Hand Elementary School, joining the sheriff's department in 1974. Six years later, Johnson was promoted to captain.

Johnson announced his resignation from the department earlier this year to campaign for Richland County sheriff's position. After his selection to the Director's job at the Academy, Johnson officially dropped out of the sheriff's race, saying he was "more a professional than a politician."

As educator/officer, Johnson said his new position gives him the best of both worlds and he is ready to work for the good of the Academy and the officers who train here.

"Since every police officer goes

through the Academy it has an important impact in the state" Johnson said. "I feel very honored to sit here today with such a large field of people."

Though he does not intend to make any immediate changes, Johnson said he will spend time orienting himself with the staff, administration and Academy's budget. Much of his attention, he added, will be focused on the upgrading the programs at the Academy, ensuring that the Academy offers the best training to law enforcement officers in the state.

"I don't think the Academy is broken and I don't think it needs fixing. I think we have a very important task here to make sure our people are armed with the very best information we can give them, individuals need to be properly trained," Johnson said.

Johnson's work with the Training Council is just as important. The Council, he said, represents all segments of the state and each member has years of experience in law enforcement. Johnson said he is ready to carry out the policies and procedures adopted by the Council and will turn to them for assistance.

"I'm impressed with the Training Council," he said. "They're my advisors and source of assistance. I'm also accountable to them and will include them on what's going on here."

As a former graduate of the Academy and former student of Kirby's, Johnson said he is looking forward to working closely with the long-time law instructor.

"I don't think there's another Jim Kirby around," Johnson said. "He has a wealth of knowledge and information and I look forward to learning more from him."

Drug violations cause increase in crime rates

Law enforcement officers were not surprised by the facts reported in the annual crime report issued to Gov. Carroll Campbell.

Murders, rapes and robberies are on the rise in South Carolina, but the state's number one crime problem is drug trafficking, according to State Law Enforcement Division Chief Robert Stewart.

Stewart pointed to the drug problem while announcing SLED's compilation of the annual crime statistics in the state.

About 99 per cent of the state's law enforcement agencies reported figures which showed crime increased in the state by about 1.5 per cent in 1987, compared to the national rate of about 1 per cent.

There were 175,954 crimes reported in 1987 compared to 173,327 reports in 1986.

However, the number of violent crimes fell slightly from 22,774 to

22,655 in 1987. The murder rate increased by 9.6 per cent, rapes were up 6.6 per cent, and robberies increased by 2.5 per cent. Aggravated assaults decreased by 1.8 per cent.

"The drug business in this state is more dangerous than it ever has been," Stewart said, making a statement which is echoed by most officers in the field.

"Dealers have got more guns, more weapons than they've ever had. We've had dogs sicced on us agents twice in the last few months, so they're using dogs now," Stewart continued.

Stewart could point to 12,000 drug-related arrests in 1986 as a major contributing factor to the increased crime. Not only do they involve trafficking, but the cultivation of such crops as marijuana.

There were more than 130,000 marijuana plants seized throughout

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*F&H Enterprises
brings down
pornography ring*

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*Officers' records
go on line on
Academy computer.*

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*There is
a real art
to interrogation.*

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NEWS / OPINION

Number of persons under corrections supervision grows

An estimated 3.2 million adult men and women were under some form of correction supervision at the end of 1986 - an equivalency of one out of every 55 U.S. residents who are 18 years of age or older, according to a report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The record was a 7 percent increase over 1985 and a 30 percent increase since 1983, the Bureau said.

During 1986 the number of adults on probation or on parole from prison increased for the eighth year in a row. State and Federal agencies reported that 2,094,405 offenders were on probation and 326,752 offenders were on parole—1.36 percent of all adults in the United States.

The total number of adults in the Nation who were under some form of correctional supervision (including those in local jails or State and Federal prisons) reached a high of over 3.2 million or an increase of 7 percent since 1985 and 30 percent since 1983.

Three-fourths of those under correctional supervision were being supervised in the community, that is, were on probation or parole, and the remaining fourth were being held in local jails or in federal or state prisons. The probation population in 1986 showed a 6.4 percent gain over the previous years. The percentage increase for the state as a whole was 6.4 percent and for the Federal system, 6.8 percent. The Northeast portion of the United States showed the highest gain at 7.7 percent and the West reported the lowest at 5.5 percent.

Six states reported increases in the probation population of over 12 percent: Missouri (18.6%), New Hampshire (16.9%), Indiana (15.1%), Connecticut (13.8%), Washington (12.7%), and Arizona (12.3%).

There were an estimated 2.1 million people on probation, 327,000 on parole, 547,000 in prison and 273,00 in jail, the Bureau report stated.

The South reported the highest probation population at 1,377 probationers per 100,000 adult residents in 1986 compared to 1,040 in Northeast, 1,034 in the West and 1,003 in the Midwest. Per state, Texas had the highest rate of persons on probation with 2,468 offenders per 100,000 adult residents.

The parole population increased an estimated 8.9 percent over 1985.

From 1979 - the first year the Bureau of Justice Statistics began reporting on probation and parole—until 1985, the number of persons on parole increased more slowly than the number on probation. However, in 1986, parole population was the fastest growing of the four components of corrections.

From 1983 through 1986, the number of men and women under community supervision increased faster than did the number of incarcerated adults. Parolees increased by 33 percent, probationers by 32 percent, prisoners by 25 percent and people in jail by 23 percent. The Northeast had 233 parolees for every 100,000 adult residents, compared to 205 in the South, 150 in the West and 99 in the Midwest.

Seven states reported increases above 20 percent of their 1985 parole populations: Washington, Louisiana, Hawaii, Alabama, Georgia, Texas and Nebraska.

Among the regions of the country, the parole populations in the South and West showed the largest percentage increases over 1986, gaining 12 percent each. The Midwest had the slowest with a regional increase of 3.2 percent.

Of the 15 states that reported a decline in parole population of 7.3 percent during 1986, Alaska, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Michigan reduced their parole populations more than 11 percent.

During the past decade the percentage of offenders who left prison as a result of a parole board's discretionary decision declined from almost 72 percent of all persons released to 43 percent of those released. This, the Bureau said, is the result of an increased use of determinate sentencing in which each prisoner serves the full sentence the court hands down minus so-called good-time credits. The federal government recently converted to this type of system.

Single copies of the bulletin, "Probation and Parole 1986" (NCJ-108012), as well as other Bureau of Justice Statistics data and publications may be obtained from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Box 6000, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The telephone number is (301) 251-5500. The toll-free number from places other than Alaska, Maryland and metropolitan Washington, D.C., is 800-732-3277.

Assistance by officers across the state helps Academy grow

I am delighted to greet you for this edition of The Criminal Justice Chronicle. As the new executive director of the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy, I realize that I have much to learn, but I believe the task will be made easier by the assistance of the many officers and law enforcement officials across the state.

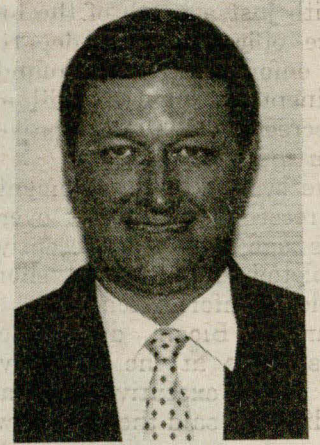
Many of you have called or stopped by the office to express good wishes, and I am grateful for all your assistance.

The S.C. Criminal Justice Academy is one of the outstanding law enforcement training facilities in the country, and I am committed to seeing that this reputation continues and that South Carolina's police officers receive the absolute best training available. Our instructors know their subject matter, and the academy is on a sound course; so this commitment is felt by every staff member here.

During the next several months, I will have the opportunity to meet with many of you. I am interested in hearing about your ideas and suggestions. Many of these ideas will be reflected as subject material for this newspaper. Feedback from you about this publication has been positive, and we at the Academy are pleased that you feel it is a service.

If I can be of service, please do not hesitate to call. I can be reached at 737-8400.

Rick Johnson



Your comments are appreciated

Readers are invited to offer their comments on happenings affecting law enforcement work.

Letters to the editor on law enforcement subjects are invited and will be considered for publication in the regular issues of *The Criminal Justice Chronicle*.

We also solicit your news items concerning job changes and accomplishments among the state's law enforcement personnel. Send them to Editor, Criminal Justice Chronicle, Criminal Justice Academy, 5400 J.P. Strom Blvd., Columbia, S.C., 29210-4088.

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AROUND THE ACADEMY

Officers' records now on Academy computer

More than 13,000 Academy graduates now have their records on file in the new computer system at the Academy.

With just a touch of the hand, a police officer's name, department, law enforcement background and pertinent information will appear on screen for administrative and departmental use.

The system was implemented in the records department over four years ago and only recently was completed due to the enormous backlog of information.

Barbara Bloom, director of administration at the Academy, and Don Titus, executive assistant to the director, said the system will be used to keep up with every officer who has attended the Academy, keeping track of his or her career in law enforcement and building upon the training they receive through the Academy.

A portion of the record keeping has been mandated by law, Ms. Bloom stated, but the new system takes organization a step further.

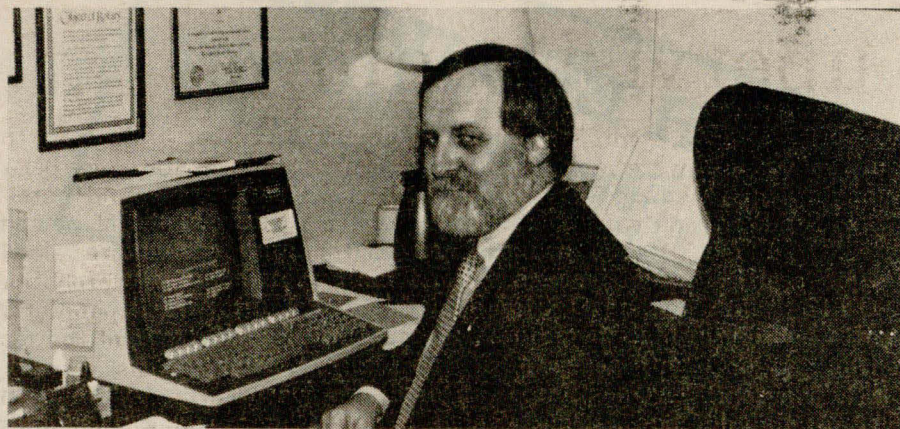
The computer has the capability of sorting through information for up-to-date census reports.

For instance, Ms. Bloom explained, if the administration needed to know how many women have trained at the Academy during a certain period of time, the computer will have the information in just a few minutes. The days of massive paperwork are gone and so are the hours spent compiling the data for reports.

"It sure feels good," Ms. Bloom said. "Now we can have the officers' records right on the screen, and our own census won't be out of date." The computer also allows more than one person to have access to the information, she added.

The records will be purged annually in order to keep the record system current. Records that have not been updated within a three year period will be deleted from the files, Ms. Bloom said.

Titus said the large data base of the WANG computer already contains over 10 million "bytes" (the



Don Titus is pleased with the upgrading of records of law enforcement officers on the Academy computer system.

number of keys struck) and more will be added in the future. The Academy currently has 20 terminals, he said, and the department is looking at adding on new computers to further develop their system.

The computer will be used to run a census on all departments in the state and to verify information a

department may have concerning an officer. The records are more accurate, Titus and Bloom reported, and easier to obtain.

While the records department has utilized the system to fit its needs, the computer is also used to analyze tests given during basic training and performs an assortment of duties at the academy.

Training Council activities benefit Grooms

Mayor Robert Grooms of Lamar is accustomed to a busy schedule. In the past three years, he has intertwined his experience as mayor and junior high school principal with his work on the Training Council.

His involvement with law enforcement has earned him better insight to the needs of each department, not only in Lamar but throughout the state.

While Grooms has been absorbing large doses of information concerning law enforcement, he has also been sharing a wealth of knowledge of his own with the Training Council, helping the Academy stay attuned to the needs of citizens and officers in the state.

Already in his second term on the Training Council, Grooms said he has been pleased with the Academy's performance and supports the training currently being offered. But Grooms does not want to stop there. He is pushing for more sophisticated programs that prepare officers for their work on the "street," supplying them with necessary, relevant information to aid their combat against crime.

Grooms has been a principal at Spaulding Junior High School for 22 years and the mayor of Lamar for eight years. His experience has given him a chance to work closely with young people and adults while enabling him to observe the threats that seem to plague almost every community - illegal drugs.

The "street needs," as Grooms

calls it, are different today than in the past. Drugs are spreading rapidly through the municipalities and have even made their way to the playground. Officers today have to be intelligent, quick and observant if these street crimes are to be halted, he said. And the only way to prepare them is through up-to-date training programs at the academy.

"I would like to see more sophisticated training that is attuned to the street needs," Grooms said. "We need to step up training and teach more relevant instruction."

Though training men and women to be quality police officers has been the major objective at the Academy, Grooms said he would also like to see a way to open the communication lines between the public and law enforcement officers.

"We need a new perception out there by the lay people. It's terrible for the public to have such a misconception about police work," he said.

Grooms said people need to be given appropriate information about the different agencies in the state to tear down these barriers and individual departments should make an effort to establish a better rapport with the community.

Another challenge that faces the Academy is the backlog of officers still waiting to go through basic training. Grooms said the Training Council would like to accommodate the demands by beginning the

training in each municipality within 12 months.

As a mayor, Grooms has seen the needs of his police department and the shortage of manpower. "Almost no town has a waiting list any more," he said.

Some of the reasons Grooms attributes to the shortage in officers is low salaries, a lack of understanding about what the job entails, and that police work is often times an "unthankful" job, he said.

"The Governor made an attempt to correct (the shortage) by upgrading retirement benefits. It certainly raised an eyebrow," Grooms said.

For Grooms, work on the Training Council has been a rewarding experience. He has applied his knowledge of law enforcement to other areas of his life and has interwoven each position to meet the needs of young people, the community, and the state.

Good Mental Health!

Everyone's Responsibility

We all have a stake in mental health. Each of us plays an important part in preventing, treating and understanding mental illness.

As South Carolina moves to a community-based mental health treatment system, everyone should be better educated about mental illness and mental health and be more sensitive to persons who are or who have been mentally ill.

South Carolinians need to know that good mental health is everyone's responsibility.

SC Department of Mental Health

F & H Enterprises

Specializing In
Sexually Explicit Pictures
Of Young Children

Out Of Business

Child pornography scam results in 46 arrests in two Carolinas

In 1985, three law enforcement officers formed a bond - an impenetrable triangle - that eventually led to the arrests of 46 people in the state and the break up of an international child pornography operation.

The men - Lt. Jeff Fuller with the Richland County Sheriff's Department, Jim Charlton with the U.S. Postal Inspection Office, and Bill Hammond with the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy - joined forces in one of the most complex and cleverly thought-out scams in the state.

Hammond, director of field and specialized training at the Academy, was teaching a course on child pornography when he started brainstorming ways to attack the growing caseload of child exploitation in the state.

He met with Charlton, also an expert on the subject, to discuss his plans and invited Fuller to become a part of a three-ring operation. Fuller, who was in charge of the juvenile division at the sheriff's department at the time, was attending the specialized training course when he met with the two officials. Because of his interest in combating child abuse, he joined the duo and an undercover operation called F & H Associates was born.

F & H Associates (Fuller & Hammond) was established to lure the child pornographers out of their protective shell by acting as a supplier of pornographic material and fictitiously offering contacts for photographs, magazines and videotapes of children in nude poses.

The fabricated organization, made up of only the three officers at its commencement, sent out questionnaires to individuals who were strongly suspected of being involved in child pornography either as suppliers or recipients of prurient material. A cover letter was attached to the question sheet explaining the purpose of the organization and kept the reader from becoming suspicious.

"The questionnaire covered every sexual deviance there is, as well as normal practices," Fuller said. The questions would either "give them an out or reinforce suspicions," he added.

Near the bottom of the page, a list of age preferences for sexual activity was included ranging from 1-year-old to senior citizen. Those who checked off ages under 18 years of age, fell into the child pornography category and became unwitting targets of the men behind F & H Associates.

Hundreds of questionnaires were sent out over the three year period and the small undercover operation began to spread across the nation. F & H Associates had the backing of local, state and federal officials, Hammond said. While Fuller handled the correspondence in his territory, Charlton and Hammond alerted law enforcement agencies in other counties and states.

When the questionnaire was sent back, the officers looked for checkmarks by the ages and only those who had indicated they preferred children were sent another letter with a list of fictitious names and addresses of people who "shared"



Richland County Sheriff's Department Lt. Jeff Fuller teamed up to form F&H Enterprises as part of a successful child pornography scam.

the same interest. But the names and addresses actually belonged to Fuller, Hammond, and Charlton.

Unknowningly, the child pornographer was initiating correspondence with a police officer to swap and trade pornographic material. Sometimes it would take three or four letters before the actual meeting took place, Fuller said. But when that time came the suspect got more than he bargained for.

"Child pornographers are as paranoid as the dickens. They're not a close knit community like some drug operations," Fuller said.

In one incident Fuller corresponded with a man more than four times before convincing him he was not a police officer or undercover investigator. When he finally met the man, Fuller pulled out his badge and shook his head. "This just hasn't been your day," he said as he hauled the man to jail.

The operation resulted in 46 arrests in South Carolina and North Carolina and more are expected. The arrests started in 1985, Fuller said, and continued over a three year period.

Today, F & H Associates is no longer in operation but that has not stopped other departments from starting their own scams against child pornography. Even with all the publicity it received, F & H Associates is still receiving mail.

"It's difficult to measure the full realm of what we've accomplished," Hammond said. "This was probably one of the most successful scams run so far." One of the arrests made during the onset of the scam was Spartanburg police officer Wayne Pearson. The 13-year veteran of the Spartanburg police force admitted to two counts of promoting sex performed by a child and two counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. The former officer was arrested after corresponding with F & H Associates.

"You get callus to it, you have to," Fuller said looking over old questionnaires. "As bad as pornography is, that's not the problem. The problem is the kids who are being abused by it. You don't feel like you ever do enough, there's so much out there. If absolutely nothing else, you discourage some (child pornographers)."

Though Fuller now works in regular investigations at Richland County Sheriff Department, he recently received commendations from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for helping break up the child pornography operation.

"It needs to be done and it's such an overwhelming task," he said. "Yeah, it's discouraging but it's better than doing nothing at all."

"It's difficult to measure the full realm of what we've accomplished. This was probably one of the most successful scams run so far."

Bill Hammond

TRAINING

INTERROGATION

That special talent pays off for officers

About 90 percent of an investigator's time is spent interviewing people and deciphering the who's, what's, when's, and where's of a crime.

The "art" of interrogation depends largely on the techniques of the interviewer. It takes a well-seasoned, well-trained officer to get an uncooperative subject to "unburden his soul," careful to assimilate the facts without jeopardizing the testimony.

In April, the Academy held a three day seminar on interrogation methods, training investigators how to interview witnesses, suspects and informants. Because of the positive response to the program, another seminar is in the works and is considered to be high priority training for all investigators.

John Murphy, legal instructor at the Academy and former FBI agent, is helping coordinate the next seminar which will branch out to all areas of interviewing. The three-day program, he said, will be a combination of formal and basic instruction and will include interviews with plaintiffs, witnesses, informants, suspects, subjects and children. The final day of the seminar will be devoted to an actual case.

"This is something every police officer can benefit from," Murphy said. "We think we'll have a tremendous response with this."

Officers will be trained on the mechanics of interviewing and taught the logistics involved in preparing for a session with a witness.

One of the most important steps an investigator takes before starting an interview, Murphy said, is making sure he or she is well-versed on the case. The investigator should study every aspect of the crime and base the questions around what has been learned.

Most people go through a filtering process when recalling vital information, Murphy said. They can only remember a portion of the things they see and it's up to the officer to put those pieces together through proper channels and proper questioning.

An interview can cover a wide range of people, starting with a witness and ending with a suspect. Whether guilty or innocent, the

Academy trainees accepting challenge

Basic training at the Academy is only a part of the changes a new officer faces. From the onset of training to graduation, the officer has made a commitment to a new lifestyle.

Interviews with several trainees who were going through basic law enforcement courses at the Academy indicate they are enthusiastic about their new careers.

Terry Downie, at age 44, is making the change from the Army to law enforcement as a member of the the Richland County Sheriff's department.

Downie joined the department in July of 1987 in hopes of making his community "a better place to live." Downie's military background has prepared him for the regimented lifestyle of police work as well as the rigorous basic training program at the Academy.

Downie takes his switch in profession in stride. To him, the transition from the Army to law enforcement work is not all that difficult or even uncommon. In both cases, he said, his intentions were to serve the public.

Though Downie admits he has

only been on the force a short while, he said the greatest need in law enforcement is recruiting more good officers to the profession.

Rick Nelson, 26, decided upon a law enforcement career when he was "just a kid." He joined the Sumter City Police Department last year after working in retail sales. His switch to law enforcement is more drastic than Downie's but Nelson is not only looking forward to the change, he's ready for it.

"I figured I was going to have to go through a lot of training," he

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person being interviewed may not want to divulge the information.

The investigator, therefore, needs to develop characteristics that will win a person's confidence in the interrogation room allowing the subject the opportunity to purge themselves of the guilt associated with the information.

Murphy said some of the traits of a successful interviewer start with establishing a good rapport with the person. Honesty, sincerity, empathy and patience fall in that category, Murphy said. But there are times when the investigator may need to "act out" those traits in order to gain a person's trust. Acting may be necessary to break down barriers, Murphy said, but deception is rarely used during interviews.

"Unless there is some compelling need to pull deception, we try to stay away from that," Murphy explained. "You have to get a person to break down the barriers to talk to you. Being sincere and listening to people takes priority over acting."

Privacy is an important part of an interview. In most cases, a witness or suspect is likely to be more talkative on a one-to-one basis than in front of a crowd. There are times, however, when more than one officer should be present for the interview.

When talking with informants, for instance, the investigator should have another officer along to avoid a possible confrontation. Many informants, Murphy explained, lead a "shady" life - neither on the right or wrong side of the law. Because of

their instability, an officer is at risk of endangering his or her life or being put in a compromising situation when interviewing the informant and should avoid talking in complete privacy.

Criminal suspects also may require the work of two officers. The popular "Good guy, bad guy" routine has resulted in numerous confessions and is used today as a means of breaking down the barriers.

The method, Murphy said, uses psychological ploys to get the suspect to trust one of the two interrogating officers. The "good" officer acts kindly toward the criminal, minimizing the offense and sometimes shifting the blame to another source.

The "bad" officer is impatient, edgy and quick to blame - obviously not one the suspect would confide in. According to Murphy, this technique puts the criminal through emotional stages and eventually leads him to confess to the good guy on the team.

While most people are guided by the old saying that confession is good for the soul, suspects are given the privilege to either waive their rights against self incrimination and counsel or indulge in their rights set by the Miranda.

"Courts are very strict on the Miranda warning," Murphy said. "If the evidence came before (the four-point warning) that interview cannot be used in court." Murphy added that once a suspect requests a lawyer, interviews cannot be conducted unless the lawyer is present.

In most incidents, people choose to waive their rights, Murphy continued. Religious beliefs, protection of someone involved in the crime, or pleading for a lesser charge are some of the reasons investigators are still given a high percentage of confessions despite the Miranda warning.

Deciding fact from fiction is another problem an investigator must face in the interrogation room. The experienced officer has learned how to detect deception during an interview through verbal and physical signs. When a suspect repeatedly refers to religious statements such as "Honest to God...", "On my mother's grave...", or "I'm a Christian now...", there is a high indication of deception, Murphy said.

Other verbal indicators include harsh tones, repeating the question, skipping around the subject, and avoiding the question but never denying he or she committed the crime.

Non-verbal behavior such as perspiration, dryness of mouth, shifty eyes, squirming in seat, and laughing (showing upper teeth) for no apparent reason are indicators of deception.

With years of practice and training, an officer can develop his or her own style of interviewing. The techniques vary with each case - sometimes leaning hard and other times being sympathetic.

"I've known some (interviewers) who could get information out of that door," Murphy said.

SLED NEWS

Newspaper praises SLED lab, investigations

It started as a microscope on an investigator's desk.

When completed the forensic laboratory at the State Law Enforcement Division will be four decades, millions of dollars and several light years beyond those humble beginnings. But the links to those first days remain, including that investigator and his microscope.

Ground was broken in February for the \$10 million facility that, in the words of Gov. Carroll A. Campbell Jr., will put the state on the "cutting edge" of forensic technology. The four-story structure is expected to be built and in operation in about a year.

What the new lab will do is help SLED establish physical proof in fighting crime. Updated and improved facilities will allow greater certainty with pieces of evidence "that speak for themselves," the governor said.

The SLED crime labs now are housed in the agency's Columbia headquarters building and in a trailer out back. The laboratories are squeezed together with agents working in cramped conditions.

In the chemistry lab, tables are piled high with bagged and boxed evidence from pending cases awaiting examination. Alongside are reference books and lab instruments. A disassembled bicycle is under one table, possibly evidence from a fatal wreck.

Blood and other body fluids brought to SLED almost daily by law enforcement officials from the state's 46 counties are examined in a small room down the hall. In the basement of headquarters, a storage closet serves as the firing range for the firearms lab.

These labs and the agency's other forensic departments - fingerprints, polygraphs, questioned documents and a death investigation unit - will receive expanded quarters in the new lab building, according to SLED spokesman Hugh E. Munn. No doubt the increased space in the new lab building is one reason SLED Chief Robert Stewart said the facility is "a dream come true for all of law enforcement."

Also, the new facility will permit the addition of several other forensic departments, Munn said. Planned additions include a sketch artist to complete composite drawings of crime suspects and an agent trained to prepare psychological profiles, Munn said. Both the artist and psychologist agent are now in training, the spokesman added.

Also planned in the new building is a "biological hazard" lab, earmarked for AIDS cases, and a full-scale morgue to assist with death investigations. According to the governor, SLED's expansion and

improvements are necessary to enhance the agency's ability to combat crime that is becoming increasingly complex.

As crime fighting goes, SLED is a relatively new organization. Founded in 1947 to assist other law enforcement officers across the state, SLED has a much shorter history than similar agencies like the FBI or Scotland Yard. Over the years, SLED has maintained tight ties to its past. In a sense the agency now is in its second generation. Many of today's agents and scientists were trained by their predecessors.

Among those "present at the creation" of SLED were U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, who was then governor of South Carolina, and J.P. "Pete" Strom, SLED's first chief, who died recently, never having left his post.

Another of the original SLED agents - the man who started the first crime lab, literally with a single microscope - now is looked upon by many as the agency's denizen. Former Lt. Millard N. Cate led the forensic department at the agency until he retired in 1977, after 30 years and three months. Along with the widow and son of Strom, Cate was one of those invited to turn a new shovelful of dirt at February's groundbreaking.

But Cate's honors at the new SLED lab might not be limited to the commemorative gold spade. If a campaign led by Aiken County Coroner Sue R. Townsend is successful, when the building is complete, it will bear Cate's name. Mrs. Townsend was Cate's staff assistant in the 1970's when she worked at SLED. The coroner said she has forwarded her suggestion to Campbell.

A walk through the halls of SLED headquarters in the wake of the 6-foot-2 Cate brings out stories of SLED's past. Almost everyone has a tale to tell, many involving Millard Cate.

Ironically, Dan DeFreese explained, he had his first contact with Cate, SLED and the agency's firearms lab all at the same time. The occasion was years before DeFreese joined the state agency. It came at a time when he was accused of being on the wrong side of the law.

A train conductor had been wounded by a bullet fired at his train as the locomotive sped through Columbia one afternoon. DeFreese had been seen with his gun near the railroad tracks on the day in question and was brought in as a suspect in the shooting. Cate conducted the investigation.

After examining the evidence gathered after the shooting, and checking DeFreese's weapon, Cate determined the boy had nothing to

do with the incident. It was not the last the two men would see of each other. DeFreese later would be recruited by Cate to work at SLED. Since 1977, DeFreese has headed the agency's firearm lab.

"I got my introduction to ballistics the hard way," DeFreese remembered.

These days, it is DeFreese who runs SLED's firearms investigations. He has assisted Aiken County authorities with investigations of numerous crimes, including the 1982 shotgun slaying of Linda Bradberry. According to case records, DeFreese was one of the first investigators on the scene after the body was found.

Because that case - now more than five years old - has apparently just been broken with four arrests. DeFreese can't discuss it. The murder is scheduled to come to trial this summer.

However, DeFreese would talk about other Aiken area cases he helped law enforcement officers solve. In one instance, DeFreese said, investigators were able to find a link between two seemingly unrelated crimes and solve both.

While looking into an Edgefield County killing in the early 1980's, investigators found a fingerprint that matched a print connected to a double-murder in Aiken County nearly a decade earlier, DeFreese said. As a result of finding the killer in the second crime, DeFreese said his print was matched to one found on the gun that killed a boy and a girl in the first crime, 10 years earlier.

DeFreese said he is looking forward to the new facility. The biggest benefit his department will receive is an updated firing range, which is used to certify that a particular bullet came from a particular weapon. Instead of the long, narrow box, filled with cotton to stop the bullet, firearms investigators will have a more modern water tank to catch bullets with.

Mrs. Townsend also mentioned the Edgefield - Aiken murders as a prime example of the kind of assistance SLED provides local law enforcement. In addition to using the chemistry labs for blood and body fluid work in deaths she investigates, the coroner said she often calls on her former colleagues for less formal help.

Not many weeks go by that Mrs. Townsend doesn't telephone SLED for consultation, she said. "I'll call up and say 'What else should I have done in this case?' or 'What should I look for next time?'" she explained.

One of the most used lab departments is the chemistry lab, started in 1951 by James K. Wilson, now a SLED major and a primary backer of the new facility. The

Aiken County Sheriff's Department makes frequent use of the chemistry lab, according to Sheriff Carroll G. Heath. SLED does almost all the drug identification for his department, he said. Some deputies and investigators can make field examinations for marijuana, Heath said, after being certified by SLED agents. Everything else suspected of being a narcotic goes to Columbia, he added.

Also sent to the SLED chemists are "rape kits" and blood and urine samples taken from suspected drunk drivers, the sheriff said. The SLED documents bureau also is utilized locally. Heath said his department has had occasion to send writing samples to Columbia for identification.

"So much of our work is at the top of the investigation," said Lt. Mickey Dawson, who runs SLED's questioned documents department. "By the nature of our work, we can help an investigation along or turn someone loose."

A suspect's handwriting or the kind of typewriter he might own all can link an individual to a crime, Dawson said. At the same time, such definite characteristics often prove an individual was not involved in a crime, he said.

"Evidence is evidence," Dawson explained.

The same rule applies when lab technicians are called upon to testify in a trial, Dawson said. Agents have to remember to "stay in the middle," he said. When on the stand, agents must limit themselves to analyzing and presenting evidence, he said.

Testifying in criminal cases across the state is an important way in which SLED cooperates with local law enforcement, according to Tom Galardi of Aiken, chief investigator for the 2nd Judicial Circuit solicitor's office. A key to SLED's involvement is the agency's resources, Galardi said. Many law enforcement agencies on the local level need SLED's expertise, he explained.

In his work preparing cases for trial, Galardi said, he uses the SLED labs for many of the same things Heath and Mrs. Townsend mentioned: blood work, bullet and drug identification. Also important in his work, Galardi said, is the assistance of polygraph operators, the agents who run the lie detectors.

SLED's goal for completing the new lab building is 14 months. The structure will provide more than 65,000 square feet of working space for agents and scientists.

From the description of the building, Augustan Tom Kelleher called the planned SLED labs a "showplace" for the agency. Kelleher

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AROUND THE STATE

Officers in the news

Edward (Ed) Middleton, who retired as a sergeant with the Greenville City Police Department in 1973 after 40 years of service, died Saturday, May 21, in Greenville. He was named Greenville's Officer of the Year in 1962.

Randy Hill, a veteran of both the Army and Air Force, was recently hired as a police officer by the Town of Ware Shoals.

Preston Avinger, a native of Santee who received military police training while serving in the Marine Corps, has been hired as a police officer for the town of Vance.

Tim Strawn, who served as police chief for the town of Bonneau for two years, has been hired as a police officer by the town of Moncks Corner. Strawn had served as a one-man police department in Bonneau before accepting the job in Moncks Corner.

Charles Miller, who has been a member of the Jefferson Police Department for three years, has been promoted from corporal to sergeant, according to Jefferson police Chief William Hinson.

Charles Tuttle, a former police chief for the town of St. George, has been named chief of the Branchville Police Department, filling a position that had been vacant for eight months.

Lundy Brigman, recently named Chief of the Pageland Police Department, received a royal welcome when he assumed his new job as he and his family were honored at a Town Council dinner meeting. SLED Agent Campbell Streater, who had headed the department for two months before Brigman was hired from his

position as chief of the Latta Police Department, was commended for his work and honored with a plaque.

Clay Burkett, a native of Leesville, has been named chief of the Leesville Police Department, filling the vacancy created when Chief Billy Lundy was killed on Feb. 16. Burkett has 10 years of police experience and began his career in 1978 with the Batesburg Police Department.

SLED Lab

Continued from Page 6

is a former assistant director of the FBI, and was instrumental in revamping that agency's crime laboratories in Washington more than a decade ago.

The chief benefit the lab will bring SLED is that it will increase the agency's capabilities in assisting local law enforcement, Kelleher said. "The value of a crime lab is greatly enhanced by the fact that it can offer support to another agency," he explained. "Agents should be able to give other investigators advice, be on hand at the crime scene and offer expert testimony," he added.

This is a milestone for South Carolina that they'll be able to bring these things under one roof," Kelleher said.

This story is reprinted from The Augusta Chronicle and was written by staff writer Jim Strader

Trainees are setting goals for the future

Continued from Page 5

said. "But I feel a lot better now than when I started."

Nelson said the programs at the Academy have taught him how to protect himself both physically and legally. The prospects of danger do not intimidate the young officer.

Eventually, he said, police work will be like any other job. By applying proper defense tactics and using good judgement, an officer can handle the most difficult situation, he said. Nelson said he also intends to continue his studies in law enforcement after his graduation by attending various seminars and workshops through the Academy.

Among some of the advancements he would like to see in law enforcement, Nelson cited community relations as a priority. It's important for law enforcement officers and the public to have good relations in order to communicate what each other's needs may be, he said.

J.C. Bradley, 29, joined the Greenville City Police Department in August 1987 after having worked as a correctional officer and case worker. But there's still a lot to be learned, he said.

"I was extremely well prepared when I got here," he said. "I've al-

ready been on the street, but I feel more confident now. I'm prepared to do what I've been trained to do."

Bradley's concern for today's youth played a significant role in his career decision.

"If I have some sort of influence on the younger kids (against drugs or crime) - if I can influence one, I can consider myself successful," he said.

The training at the Academy, Bradley said, has been "top notch" and has given him a better insight into his new profession. The legal department was well covered, he said after finishing his final week in the classroom.

Bradley agreed with Nelson concerning the need for better community relations. More emphasis needs to be placed on how to handle the public, he said.

"Some officers take authority to the limit," Bradley stated.

Once he receives his certification, Bradley has no intentions of stopping there. He plans to take his interest in law enforcement to the limits.

"I hope to get my master's degree in criminal justice then go higher up," he said. "As far in law enforcement as I can go, I'm going."

Drug - related arrests increased during 1987

Continued from Page 1

the state in 1987, according to the report. That was the eighth-largest number in the nation.

"It's gotten to the point where marijuana can be grown in this state just as potent and the plants just as big as in South America," Stewart said.

The 2,674 arrests for selling and manufacturing cocaine and for possessing cocaine were up 25 per cent. Comparing figures as far back as far as 1981, Stewart pointed to a 631 per cent increase for selling and manufacturing cocaine and an increase of 781 per cent in arrests for simple possession.

Arrests for selling, growing and possessing with intent to distribute marijuana were up 13 per cent while arrests were up 7 per cent for simple possession. There were 8,928 total arrests involving marijuana in 1987. "Instead of marijuana being flown in or brought in by boat loads, it's mostly being grown right here in the state," Stewart said.

Cocaine presents a different type problem. "We've got a pipeline up I-

95 with cocaine coming out of South Florida into the state," Stewart pointed out.

Ironically, just a week after Stewart released the crime report, Highway Patrol Trooper E.J. Chrisopulos netted the biggest cocaine bust ever for the Highway Patrol in Jasper County on I-95.

Chrisopulos stopped a speeding car and the arrest netted 2½ pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$500,000. Also confiscated in the arrest was \$15,000 in cash, two handguns and gold jewelry. An arrest two weeks earlier in Jasper County had netted one-half kilo of cocaine and about \$6,000 in cash.

"This started my day off good," Highway Patrol Commander J.H. (Red) Lanier said of the 2:30 a.m. arrest on May 9. "If we keep making hits like this, you're going to dry up a lot of noses up north and in South Carolina."

When SLED's new crime laboratory is completed next year, it should become a big weapon in fighting the battle in drug-related offenses.

While law enforcement officers are having to develop new plans to battle drug-related problems, as demonstrated by additional training at the Criminal Justice Academy, there were still a growing number of traditional cases to deal with.

Murder cases increased by 9.6 per cent during 1987, but there was an arrest made in 90.3 per cent of the cases.

As law enforcement officers know, many of the violent crime cases can also be attributed to drug law violators.

Arrest rates for various categories throughout the state last year included arrests in 59.9 per cent of the rape cases, 63.8 per cent of aggravated assault cases, 36 per cent for robbery, 22.6 per cent for motor vehicle theft, 20.3 per cent for larceny and 15.9 per cent for breaking and entering. None of those figures should surprise law enforcement officers.

During 1987 there were 780 cases of assault on police officers reported, which was down from 1986. However, there were 149 officers who required medical attention as a

result of those assaults. There was one fatality reported involving an assault on an officer during 1987.

Cherokee County Sheriff Joe Wallace, like most law enforcement officers, was in instant agreement with Chief Stewart and the report. "I don't need a report to know that crime is up," Wallace said. He placed the blame on lax sentencing by court systems and drug users committing crimes to support their habits.

"Our drug problem is out of hand," Wallace said. "Most of your break-ins are to furnish drug habits," Wallace said. He believes 75 to 80 per cent of reported crimes are rooted in drug activity.

"Criminals are not held accountable," Wallace said of the court process. "They're free before the ink is dry. There is something very, very wrong."

Law enforcement officers were not surprised at the figures or conclusions reached.

Some information for this story was obtained by reports by The Associated Press and The Spartanburg Herald-Journal.

Taking standards seriously

The Florence County Sheriff's Department isn't throwing as much weight around as it used to, but Sheriff William Barnes isn't worried about that decline. He's actually very proud of the fact.

Since September of last year members of the department have dropped almost 1,000 pounds of extra weight and the collective waist sizes of the deputies' uniforms have shrunk by 10.1 feet.

It all started when Barnes decided that his department should meet the same physical standards as the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy, which all law enforcement officers must, by law, attend and complete, if they are to continue in law enforcement.

Barnes said the new regulation came as no surprise to the men of his department and in his memo last September, he warned that it was going to be hard for some of them, but not to panic. He told his men the new physical standards would benefit them in the long run and if they didn't buckle down and make the effort, their careers with the sheriff's department were in doubt.

Barnes said that with that kind of incentive, his men have really made an effort.

The first part of the new look was a complete physical for all of the deputies and the sheriff himself. He said everybody over 35

had to also take a stress test.

The sheriff said there are five parts to the physical standards program that he has adopted. These include weight standards correct for the height and age of the deputies; a sit and reach test to test the flexibility of the back and upper leg area; one minute of situps based on the age of the men and women; a pushup test again determined by the age of the deputy; and a 1.5 mile run to test the stamina and endurance.

Barnes said the tests will be administered on a semi-annual basis and that he had finished the first of the yearly tests in March. He said only two of the deputies had failed one part of the test and that they had 30 days in which to pass that part.

Barnes said he is very proud of what the deputies have accomplished in spite of the fact that it is likely to cost his department a few bucks for the new uniforms to fit the smaller waists.

One fact that came to light during the physical testing that surprised the sheriff was that some of the older members of the department had an easier time passing the tests than some of the younger and supposedly more fit members of the department.

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